

SECRET

13 May 1968

1. Shevchenko May Celebration and KGB Provocation in Kiev.

The following info was brought by tourists who visited the Ukraine in April 1968.

Early April 1968 young Ukrainian intellectuals started in Kiev ^{anniversary of the} preparations for a mass manifestation in May to commemorate the ~~transfer~~ of Shevchenko's body from Petersburg to Kiev, which was to take place near Shevchenko's monument in the capital of Ukraine. Similarly as in previous years the manifestation was ~~tought~~ to be a Ukrainian patriotic affair, accentuated ^{this time} ~~by~~ recent trials and protests against them.

The KGB learned about it and decided to foil the manifestation. It dissiminated strongly provocative anti-Soviet and anti-Russian leaflets ~~allegedly~~ in the name of the organizers of ^{the} demonstration in order to compromise them. However, the genuine organizers of the manifestation discovered at once the KGB's ploy and in their turn issued another leaflet explaining what's what. So far, the preparations for the manifestations ^{were as before} ~~proceeding~~ and so far, no new trick on the part of the KGB had been applied.

2. Hamretskyy Yuri Markovych

Ukrainian historian of Kiev University, on UNESCO stipend in France in March /April 1968, aged 30-35, author of "Peremoha Velykoyi Zhovtnevoyi Revolutsiyi na Ukrayini" -2 volumes, and "Rady Robitnychyykh Deputativ Ukrayiny v 1917 rotsi". Also contributed to "Ukrainian Historical Journal". Interested mainly in Ukrainian history of 1917-20 period, primarily in the writings of Mazepa, Vynnychenko, Shakhrai. Visited Ukrainian Scholarly Center (NTSh) in Sarcelles, near Paris. Met with many Ukrainian emigres, several times visited and stayed overnight at Arkadiy Zhukovsky's house. Intelligent, reserved, smooth. On 24 April 1968 left for Germany where he was scheduled to do some research in Marburg, Goettingen, Tuebingen. Also wanted to visit "Ukrainians in Munich". In Paris was seen at Folies Bergeres alone, without any company. To some people complained against the representative of Ukr SSR at UNESCO in Paris Reshetnyak Nikolai who tried to restrict his movements.

Hamretsky was delighted with "Do Khvyli" by Shkhrai which was given to him by Zhukovsky, and to the latter, as well as on other occasions, he expressed the view that there was a real demand for the books like the one by Shakhrai

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SECRET

in the Ukraine, and emigration would do a great service to the people in Kiev by publishing such books. " You must understand that we have to have our own Lenins, people like Skrypnyk, Khvylovyy and others who would be known to our contemporaries and whom we could use in our argumentation" - was one of his often expressed statements.

In his opinion " not all can follow Chornovil's path but instead many more have to perform quiet , hard , and unpublicized work to, above all , strengthen our scholarly potential".

Moreover, the present situation is not propitious for Chornovils. The Soviet nationalities policy is undergoing one of its negative zigzags and no "spectaculars" are to be expected in the near future. It's better to wait for more propitious times and in the meantime to do one's daily work. He also warned against any hopes that Ukrainians and Russians would be allowed to follow Czech pattern of recent developments. In his opinion "the liberalization in Czechoslovakia could have some negative results for the people in the Soviet Union".

3. Turchenko Yuri

Lecturer of art at Kiev Graphics School, Ukrainian, artist, ~~visited~~ ^{1924, Ukr.} on UNESCO stipend in Paris in March /April 1968. Met with Ukrainian emigres, ^{visited Sarcelles} often visited Virsta. Primarily interested in art , avoided political topics. End April went to London .

On 17 May scheduled to go to Canada (10 days in Ottawa, 7 days in Montreal, then in Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver). On 16 July scheduled to arrive in the USA (Washington, D.C, and New York) and after 10 days or so will return via Montreal to the Ukraine. Wants to meet emigre artists , particularly interested in Lisovsky in London, and Hordynsky and Hnizdovsky in the States. (His itinerary is only tentative).

4. Khmil and wife

During their visit ^{on 27 April 1968} to Lysyak Rudnytsky in Washington, D.C. and in talks with others , Khmil indicated quite strongly that the situation in the Ukraine had recently changed to the worse , but sooner or later it will change again to the better. Despite everything the process of Ukrainization will continue to grow "under surface".

SECRET

As an example Khmil's wife told the following story: when her daughter published her first collection of poems, she received 3,000 letters from various young people who congratulated her on her "endeavor" in Ukrainian poetry. In brief, it is the young generation which carries the banner of Ukrainization^{nowadays}, and therefore she is very optimistic as to the future of Ukrainian element in the Soviet Union.

5. Kochubey Yuri

During the visit to Dr Kl's house on 23 April 1968 he continued more or less along the same line as before, even in presence of Eugen.

His evaluation of the situation: things turned to the worse in the Ukraine, they are tightening the screws, no concessions to be expected. But soon it will change again to the better.

Substitution of Skaba by Ovcharenko is a progress in general but it would be wrong to expect too much from the latter.

Emigration has to be very careful nowadays not to do anything that would complicate matters for people in the Ukraine. It's better to wait and see. His departure from Kiev is scheduled for end May 1968.

6. Okudzava, Rozhdestvensky, Krugerskaya in Australia.

During Okudzava's and Rozhdestvensky's Poetry Reading in Sidney, on 27 March 1968, Okudzava was given "Sixty Poets ^{of the} ~~of the~~ Sixties" (Bucharest publication) and gladly took it. Krugerskaya acted everywhere as a Russian.

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